

Checkin' Out My Walk  
#8 - Pergamos - Part IV - Mystery, Babylon The Great

Alexander Hislop, in his book, *Two Babylons*, clearly traces the practices and teachings of ancient Babylon, and their modern counterparts in the Roman Catholic Church and her Protestant daughters. Today's myriad of false religions has their origin in ancient Babylon Since nominal Christianity is so permeated with false doctrines from Babylon, we should carefully study this problem, so as to avoid "Babylonianism."

Today, there is an almost irresistible tide in Bible-believing churches to turn aside to ideas of Babylon. All too many believers are taking one of the many roads to Rome and Babylon.

There are only two religions: (1) the Truth of the Almighty, as expressed in His Word, the Bible; and (2) every other belief. The mixing of these 2 religions yields disastrous results. John the Apostle writes about a Great Religious System present during the Tribulation Period which is described as a great counterfeit, known as BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION" that can be traced all the way back to the early days of the Old Testament!

Revelation 17:1-6 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,<sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."<sup>3</sup> So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.<sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. "And upon her forehead a name was written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS (birth to false religions) AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (spiritual fornication)

<sup>6</sup> I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Genesis 10 & 11 tell us about Noah's great Grandson, Nimrod, who lived 200 or 300 years after the flood.

Nimrod, or Nimroud-bar-Cush, as he is called on the monuments, was a grandson of Ham, the unworthy son of Noah, whose character is revealed in his exposure of his father's shame. Ham seems to have been all too readily affected by the apostasy that brought the flood. Ham means "swarthy," "darkened," or more literally, "the sun-burnt." The name indicates the state of the man's soul. For what is a sun-burnt person? One who is darkened by light from heaven. Ham had been granted wonderful mercies; he was saved from the flood, but he abused his privileges and "turned the grace of God into lasciviousness."

Jude 1:4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

He was actually darkened by the burning rays of light God caused to shine upon his soul. Thus his conscience became seared as with a hot iron, and he became the founder of a race that departed from the living God and led the way into idolatry, worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator. (Romans 1:18-31)

Ham begat Cush who begat Nimrod, the founder of Bab-el or Babylon and the arch-apostate of the patriarchal age.

Genesis 10:8-11 "And Cush begat Nimrod (Let us REBEL): he began to be a mighty one (Hebrew gibborim > TYRANT) in the earth. He was a mighty hunter (The rabbis said: "hunter of the souls of men") before (Hebrew translation = AGAINST = hostile) the LORD: therefore it is said, Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

The term is not complimentary, but implies ruthlessness and a lust for power. [The Jewish Encyclopedia says, Nimrod was "he who made all the people rebellious against God."] A study will show he was also into Satanic rituals and heathenism.

Shortly after the flood men began to migrate from the east and settle into one place. In Genesis 9:1, 7 God gave the mandate twice to Noah and his family "to be fruitful and multiply and FILL THE EARTH.

Note: God's intent for the nations was for people to scatter across the earth; not to congregate in one place. He wanted the whole earth populated with His image-bearers (Gen. 1:26-27). This command was a foreshadowing of the Great Commission.

Matt. 28:18-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;...

Rom. 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Jesus told His disciples to repopulate the earth with a new "race" of spiritual people, born again in "the image of His Son."

David Jeremiah: As Paul explained, God scattered men and set "the exact places where they should live" so they would seek after God. Humankind, settling in smaller communities throughout the world, would not be tempted toward the self-importance and self-reliance that massive centralization would foster - and did indeed foster at Shinar.

Gen 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

David Jeremiah: Nimrod's "new world order" was an act of rebellion against God because it was motivated by pride. The presumption of utter independence forced God out of the people's hearts and deposed Him as the rightful King of their lives, replacing Him with self.

The area of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, the "Cradle of Civilization," is the location of the city of Babylon.

And the beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh....."

Nimrod: 1. First to organize cities into a kingdom under human rule. "Going out from the presence of the Lord, he impiously sought to gather a multitude about himself, and in defiance of the express command of God to spread abroad upon the face of the earth, he persuaded his associates and followers to join together in: (1) building a city and (2) a tower of renown which should reach unto heaven," and (3) to make a name for themselves [to glorify man]. Their tower which symbolizes the religious unity that dominated Babylon would be recognized as a temple for those who did not walk in obedience to the word of the Lord.

Charles Beard: "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make drunk with power."

2. Nimrod became the first world dictator, and built two of the greatest cities and empires the world has ever known, Babylon and Nineveh!

Note: Often power helps corrupt a man ... Nimrod also began to lead people away from his grandfather's (Noah) God. (Josephus, Antiquities 1:4:2)

He built a system of study of the stars, astrology, occultism and devil worship.

The Tower of Babel was a ziggurat built for religious purposes. It was like a pyramid except the successive levels were recessed with steps so you could walk to the top where there was a special shrine dedicated to a god or goddess who could come down from heaven to meet them. It also provided a place for occult worship of the stars and heavens.

Gen. 11:4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." The two idols of the tower builders' hearts were:

1. Security - Controlling their circumstances
2. Significance - Create a city and tower to magnify their name

"With all the effrontery of our modern apostates, they called their city and tower Bab-El, the gate of God." This first federation of man was a society built to bring the human race together to exalt man and exclude God - to deify man and dethrone God. This project was an arrogant declaration of war against God. We know Satan was behind this master plan to be "god" in the eyes of all men through occult worship and practices. Evil could spread through the whole race with ease since everyone was in one place speaking one language. Masses could be converted to his false religion.

Sovereign God is never perplexed or paralyzed by what people do on earth.

Babel's conceited "Let's go up" was answered by heaven's calm "Let's go down."

It was soon changed by divine judgment into Babel, Confusion.

Note: Because of God's judgment, the "gate of the gods" became the "the door to confusion."

Consider: "God is not the author of confusion" in His church, but in the world, God sometimes uses confusion to humble people and keep them from uniting against His will.

Note: God's GRACE spared their lives and gave them opportunity to return to Him.

Man's unity would give people a false sense of power that would lead them into greater rebellion against God.

Genesis 11:4-9 God scattered the people to form the various nations and confounded their language. However when the people scattered, they took aspects of the Babylon Mystery Religion with them.

Babylon symbolizes worldly pride, moral corruption and defiance against God.

Babylon represents the world system that opposes God, hates Jesus Christ.

Babylon appeals to the baser appetites of human nature.

The Babylon "Mystery" System Of Worship has its origin in the legend of Nimrod and his wife Semiramus. Secular history and tradition provide further details about the Babylonian Religion Nimrod and his wife founded. (Whether or not the Nimrod-Semiramis-Tammuz legends are completely historical or not is immaterial. The *result* of these legends is that mankind in general, has followed variations of one kind or another, of the religion of Babylon, to this day. Rome, the greatest and longest-lived human world-ruling empire, assimilated religions from her many conquered territories. All these religions had commonalities, for they all came from Babylon which represents false religion. These practices infiltrated and overcame the professing Christian Church, which later came to be dominated by Rome itself.)

Semiramis is reputed to be the first high-priestess of idolatry and the founder of the Babylonian mysteries, a false religion aimed at supporting their rule. Babylon became the fountainhead of idolatry and the mother of every heathen pagan system in the world.

"It is identical with the mystery of iniquity which wrought so energetically in Paul's day, and shall have its fullest development when the Holy Spirit has departed and the Babylon of the apocalypse holds sway."

After his father, Cush, died, Nimrod married his own mother, Semiramis, who was as evil and demonic as himself! In the book of Jasher:

[Joshua 10:13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. *Is this not written in the Book of Jasher?*

II Sam. 1:18 and he told *them* to teach the children of Judah *the Song of the Bow*; indeed *it is written in the Book of Jasher:*]

Nimrod was counseled by the priests of Ba'al to marry his own mother as an act of incest in order to acquire what is called "*the third eye*" or the "*all-seeing eye of Lucifer*."

Today people call it "*psychic power*" or "*extra-sensory perception*," but it is demonic power to "see" things in the spiritual realms.

The Bible calls this "*a spirit of divination*" which is a counterfeit to the true gifts of the Holy Spirit given to those who are in covenant relationship with the Messiah,

Ezek. 13:6-7 They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, 'Thus says the LORD! But the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed.  
<sup>7</sup> Have you not seen a futile vision, and have you not spoken false divination? You say, 'The LORD says,' but I have not spoken."

Nimrod married his mother Semiramis in order to acquire this special power from the fallen angels. Together they started a "one world religion and government" called "*The Babylonian Empire.*"

The religion she invented was based primarily upon a corruption of the primeval astronomy formulated by Noah's righteous ancestors before the flood. Long before the development of astrology, God placed His intriguing message in the constellations. In the original this system depicted by means of constellations told the story of Satan's rebellion and the war in the heavens, his subversion of mankind, the fall of Adam and Eve, the promise of One to come who would suffer and die to relieve man from the curse of sin then be installed as Lord of Creation. ("Gospel of the Stars")

God's Mazzaroth begins with constellation Virgo and ends with constellation Leo.

Astrology, a wicked, perverted and satanic religion was the idolatry of the Old Testament. It distorted the original purpose of the stars by using the same constellations of the mazzaroth, but attaching different meanings to them. Every pagan religion throughout history is nothing more than a perversion of that original story. One purpose of the tower reaching towards heaven was to consult the fallen angels through the use of astrology.

These eternal truths were corrupted by her (rather, by the evil one controlling her) into a mythic cycle. The great dragon is depicted as the rightful lord of the universe whose throne has been temporarily usurped by One whom we can recognize as the God of the Bible. The serpent creates man in his present miserable state, but promises a child would be born of a divine mother. This child would supplant God, become a god himself, and return rulership of the Earth to the serpent. These fables were based upon the then widely-known story of the constellations, and were introduced under the guise of revealing the hidden esoteric knowledge concealed in them.

"An imitation of what is real and true has ever since characterized Babylon in all ages."

### The Mystery Religion Of Nimrod

1. Marked the beginning of polytheism in the post-flood world: the worship of many gods.
2. The sun, fire and snake became their symbols of god on earth.
  - a. The sun, as the great source of light and heat, was worshipped under the name of Baal.
  - b. Fire was worshipped as the enlightener and the purifier.
  - c. "In the mythology of the primitive world," says Owen, "the serpent is universally the symbol of the sun." In Egypt, one of the commonest symbols of the sun, or sun-god, is a disc with a serpent around it. The original reason of that identification:

as the sun was the great enlightener of the *physical* world, so the serpent was the great enlightener of the *spiritual*, by giving mankind the "knowledge of good and evil."

Mankind followed this religion of worshipping the creation (creature) rather than the Creator. Romans 1:21-26 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.

For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

3. Human sacrifice became openly practiced.

4. Nimrod, through the empire and religion of Babylon, began to unite the people - all under his "one-world government."

This early Babylonian religion began to be abhorred by God-following generations of the era. According to tradition, (some historical accounts say by Shem, who was still alive at the time and who was keeping covenant with Yahweh - Shem's line would bring Abraham and the Redeemer.) 72 men made their way to Nimrod's palace and kill him because of his rebellion against God. They cut his body into little pieces! Each co-conspirator is to take a piece of Nimrod's body and distribute it to the cities under his rule.

All of this gore had a purpose: to show the world, proof-positively, that Nimrod wasn't a god.

Warning: Stop what they were doing and start obeying God, or else!

### Similar Practices In The Bible

Judges 19:29 When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

I Samuel 11:7 So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

Result: Nimrod's followers became very frightened. Why? They worshipped him as a god - a god who would live forever. Now, he was dead; the validity of his religion was in question. Their whole system of control had to go in a different direction.

Once Nimrod was murdered Semiramis was in danger of losing all she had. Not so long after his death, Semiramis was pregnant; the father unknown. This was her golden opportunity to further corrupt those looking for answers.

She began to formulate a system whereby they would be objects of worship.

1. She publicly declares: upon Nimrod's death he had been resurrected as the god of the Sun.
2. As the Sun god, Nimrod used his sun rays to miraculously inseminate Semiramis with his child > Pregnant by his "holy" spirit. Sound familiar?
3. She claimed the child, Tammuz, was the reincarnated Nimrod.

(Thus, Semiramis was both Nimrod's wife and mother.)

Note: Knowing God's promise of a future Savior (Gen.3:15), she claimed Tammuz, her son, was supernaturally conceived, the promised seed, the "savior" who fulfilled this prophecy. Satan knew and set up a counterfeit from the truth, centuries before Jesus came.

Note: The slaughter of Nimrod was actually a good thing. He now was a martyr.

Nimrod *died* for the sins of the whole world, and rose again as this child.

Consider: The greatest twist in the history of the world - the twist of Jesus Christ.

This corruption of God's prophesy would rob millions of the true savior of the world -

Jesus Christ. The people now began to accept Nimrod as the fulfillment of prophecy.

*His* death saved everyone from the curse of the Garden. Ultimately, the Babylonian religion was saved by the borrowing of God's prophecy, and twisting it all.

4. Semiramis was deified as the "great mother" of the sun god and as the queen of heaven.

5. Semiramis developed a religion of mother and child worship. When she presented him to the people, he was hailed as the promised deliverer. The people wanted to believe in a god. Since they had forgotten the Creator God, Yahweh, so they became followers of Tammuz. When God scattered them and confused the languages, the same basic deities were worshipped under different names.

Note: All pagan gods are descended from Tammuz, including Ba'al, the god the Israelites often worshiped against Yahweh's warnings. All pagan goddesses are descended from Semiramis who declared herself a goddess since she was the mother of a god.

Pictures are worth a thousand words. If you doubt the common origin of many pagan practices, pictures showing the striking similarity should convince you.

The mother and child were worshiped as:

Mother goddess Shing-moo with child in China and Japan

Frigga and Balder in Scandinavia

Ishtar and Tammuz in Babylon

Ashtoreth and Baal in Phoenicia

## ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERY RELIGIONS OF BABYLON

<b>SEMIRAMIS</b> <i>Queen of Heaven</i>	<b>TAMMUZ</b> <i>Son</i>	<b>NIMROD</b> <i>Husband</i>
<b>Mother</b>		<b>Son</b>
Isis .....	<b>Egypt</b> .....	Osiris
Ishtar .....	<b>Assyria</b> .....	Bacchus
Isi .....	<b>India</b> .....	Iswara
Cybele .....	<b>Asia</b> .....	Deoius
Aphrodite .....	<b>Greece</b> .....	Eros
Venus .....	<b>Rome</b> .....	Cupid
Rhea .....	<b>Babylon</b> .....	Zero-ashta ( <i>the seed</i> )
Ashtoreth .....	<b>Phoenicia</b> .....	Tammuz
		Ninus ( <i>Son/Husband</i> )
		Lamented One ( <i>Son</i> )

Note: Missionaries have been shocked to find 'Mother and Child' worship in pagan countries where the Gospel has never been taken! Babylon Mystery Religion

Thus was introduced the mystery of the mother and the child, a form of idolatry older than any other known to man. Their worship was celebrated with the most disgusting and immoral practices. The religious system of Semiramis had many secret rites in the worship of its idols. These were called mysteries (secrets) into which new members had to be initiated. When the initiates were initiated they were given a cup containing a mysterious drink made of wine, honey, water and flour. This represented the doctrines of the cult, but these also made the participant intoxicated and prepared for what the participant was about to see, hear and do. These rites involved consecrated male and female prostitution and the most sordid sexual immorality carried out in connection with its idolatrous worship.

The fornication is both physical and spiritual.

It was Satan's effort to delude mankind with an imitation so like the truth of God they would not know the true Seed of the woman when He came in the fullness of time. Within 1,000 years, Babylonianism had become the religion of the world, which had rejected the Divine revelation.